Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

TEACHING OF ASTRONOMY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

The attention lately given by the press to the question of how astronomy shall be taught in the University of California, is a striking sign of the interest taken in university matters, and as such is welcome to all university men. As several errors have crept into the published statements, it seems worth while to correct them here.

The annual cost of the LICK Observatory is not $30,000, but, on the average, less than $25,000. Of this cost, the State pays $20,000, and Mr. LICK'S Endowment Fund pays the remainder. The cost of Greenwich Observatory last year was over $56,000. HARVARD College Observatory, Paris, etc., cost as much as Greenwich, or more.

In June, 1887, a year before the Observatory was completed, a committee, consisting of Regents WALLACE, SWIFT and RODGERS, reported a plan for its organization. As Acting-President of the University, I attended the meetings of this committee, and the plan adopted was essentially the one recommended by myself. It provided that "it is the intention of the Regents to establish and maintain a College of Astronomy as one of the colleges in the University, such college to be called the LICK Astronomical Department of the University of California." This plan was unanimously adopted by the Regents on June 10, 1887. As Acting-President, I submitted to the Regents a further resolution providing that "the regular course of undergraduate instruction in astronomy in the University will be given in part in the Colleges of Science at Berkeley, and in part at the LICK Observatory." This resolution was adopted in March, 1888. It further provided for the admission of an indefinite number of graduate students at Mount Hamilton.

The Observatory was transferred to the University on June 1, 1888, and it was supposed that the institution would at once be made a College of Astronomy, as the Regents had expressly declared their intention in this regard. The new President of the University, Mr. DAVIS, did not take this view; and on his recommendation nothing was done in the matter of undergraduate instruction. The number of graduate students to be received at the Observatory was expressly limited to four. It was several months before permission was obtained to receive even one. It was decided that the astronomers at the LICK Observatory were not members of the Academic Senate (which includes all persons giving instruction in the University), and, furthermore, that residence at Mount Hamilton was not "residence at the University." Under these discouragements we did as well as we could. Since 1888 we have given instruction at the LICK Observatory to fifteen graduate and special students, several of them for two or more seasons. Of these, four were full professors of astronomy, and three were assistant professors, or instructors, in other institutions. We considered that in no way could we be of more use than in teaching the teachers. Our work of instruction is not confined to regular students. We have received about 40,000 visitors at Mount Hamilton since 1888. Many lectures have been given by the astronomers before general audiences, and before the Astronomical Society of the Pacific. Eight books have been published and distributed from the Observatory, and more than 750 communications have been made to scientific journals, magazines and newspapers. No observatory in the world has done anything like as much as this, during the period 1888–1895, to make its work generally known.

The present arrangements for instruction in astronomy at the University were adopted by the Regents after a full discussion of various plans. At that time I said that the Observatory could take entire charge of all instruction, undergraduate and otherwise, and that it stood entirely ready to do so; but that, in view of our limited staff (we have seven observers, while Greenwich, Paris, and HARVARD College Observatories have over forty, Rome, nine, and Rio Janeiro, sixteen), it would be wiser to keep our astronomers at their observations here, since the reputation of the Observatory among other establishments comes solely from these observations. These views were adopted by the Regents, and were, and are, approved by the President.

In my letter of February 27, 1895, which has been printed in various newspapers, I asked two things. First, that if any change was made by the Regents, it should be so made as to interfere as little as possible with our work here (since it requires an absence of about three days from Mount Hamilton to give a lecture of one hour at Berkeley); and second, that if any new programme was to be made for our work, we requested the privilege of helping to make it. These requests seem to be reasonable, and if they are, they will, no doubt, be granted by the Regents. Finally, I said what is now and ever has been true, that all the astronomers here were entirely ready to do their best to carry out any plans which the Regents should adopt.

If those interested in this matter will take note of these facts in connection with what has already been printed, nothing but good can come from this discussion. EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

THE LICK OBSERVATORY, March 18, 1895.

A LARGE REFLECTOR FOR THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

Mr. EDWARD CROSSLEY, F. R. A. S., of Halifax, England, proposes to present to the LICK Observatory the 3-foot reflecting telescope and its dome which now form part of his private observatory. The grateful thanks of the LICK Observatory are offered to him for this most generous and highly appreciated gift. EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

MOUNT HAMILTON, April 4, 1895.

A LARGE REFLECTOR FOR THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

The Director of the LICK Observatory yesterday received a telegram which announces that EDWARD CROSSLEY, Esq., lately Member of Parliament for Halifax, England, proposes to present to the LICK Observatory his great 3-foot reflecting telescope, with its dome and all its apparatus complete. Mr. CROSSLEY makes no conditions to his gift, except that his telescope when set up at Mount Hamilton shall be called the CROSSLEY Reflector, and that the expenses of transporting the instrument and dome from England to California shall be borne by Americans. The splendid instrument which Mr. CROSSLEY offers is well known to astronomers. It was constructed by Mr. A. A. COMMON, of London, and for the magnificent photographs made with it Mr. COMMON received the gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society. It was then purchased by Mr. CROSSLEY, and set up in his private observatory at Halifax, England, along with other instruments. An experience of some years has shown Mr. CROSSLEY and his astronomer, Mr. GLEDHILL, that the climate of England is not good enough to do justice to this telescope, and he therefore determined to present it to an observatory which was favorably situated, where it could be used to the fullest advantage. It is a great compliment to the LICK Observatory that Mr. CROSSLEY has selected it to receive his gift, and